

## **REMARKS**

Claims 13 and 37 are amended. Claim 38 is canceled. Claims 3, 13, 23-37 and 39-43 are pending in the application. Claims 3 and 23-30 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 13, 31-37 and 39-43 are currently under consideration.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 38-43 (present Action, page 3).

Claims 13, 32, 33 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohkase (U.S. Patent No. 5536918). Anticipation requires each and every element of a claim to be disclosed in a single prior art reference. Claims 13, 32, 33 and 37 are allowable over Ohkase for at least the reason that Ohkase fails to disclose each and every element in any of those claims.

As amended, independent claim 13 recites a susceptor comprising a body having a ring with a radially inner portion at least a majority of which is non-solid space extending through the body. A bearing surface is received on a circular recess comprised by the ring and the centermost portion of the semiconductor substrate does not contact the susceptor. The amendment to claim 13 is supported by the specification at, for example, Figs. 14-15 and the text at paragraph 83. Ohkase discloses a holding portion 31 that holds a wafer at a plurality of points on discrete holding protrusions (Fig 13 and the text at col.11, ll. 49-51). Ohkase does not disclose the claim 13 recited bearing surface received on a circular recess comprised by the ring where

the centermost portion of the semiconductor substrate does not contact the susceptor. Accordingly, claim 13 is not anticipated by Ohkase and is allowable over this reference.

Dependent claims 32 and 33 are not anticipated by Ohkase for at least the reason that they depend from non-anticipated base claim 13.

Independent claim 37 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 38. Claim 38 is appropriately canceled. As amended, claim 37 is allowable for at least the reason that it recites subject matter indicated by the Examiner as allowable.

Claims 13 and 31-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either of Huang (U.S. Patent No. 6468354) or Fan (U.S. Patent No. 6022809). Huang teaches a two part ring wafer support. Huang does not teach the claim 13 recited bearing surface received on a circular recess comprised by the ring where the centermost portion of the semiconductor substrate does not contact the susceptor. Accordingly, claim 13 is not anticipated by Huang.

Fan teaches a shadow ring (focusing ring) that encircles (but does not contact) a wafer. Fan does not teach the claim 13 recited bearing surface received on a circular recess comprised by the ring where the centermost portion of the semiconductor substrate does not contact the susceptor. Accordingly, claim 13 is not anticipated by Fan.

Dependent claims 31-36 are allowable over Fan and Huang for at least the reason that they depend from non-anticipated base claim 13.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 13, 31-37 and 39-43 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of claims 13, 31-37 and 39-43 in the Examiner next action. Applicant also requests examination of the claims that are currently withdrawn as being directed toward a non-elected species (3 and 23-30).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

June 24, 2005

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